

10/650,645 filed 8/28/03

REMARKS

This Amendment is respectfully submitted to place subject Application in condition for allowance. Typographical errors, identified by Primary Examiner Spitzer, have been corrected by 5 providing a replacement paragraphs, and Claim 19 has been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants and their undersigned attorney note with appreciation that Primary Examiner Spitzer has allowed Claims 1 to 10 18 and 20.

In outstanding Office Action, Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 19 has been amended to recite the process according to 15 claim 18 wherein the Membrane Efficiency Index of the non-permeate fluid from the intermediate ~~first~~ product modules is maintained within a range from about 0.5 to about 1.5. Support for this amendment is found in the Specification, for example at page 9, lines 8 to 11.

20 Base on the amendments submitted herein, Applicants urge that Claims 1 to 20, inclusive, all claims now presented, are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request Examiner to pass subject application for allowance.

Do not hesitate to contact Frederick S. Jerome whose 25 telephone number is (630) 832-7974 (FAX (630) 832-7976) if additional assistance is needed regarding this paper or earlier papers for Applicants.

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Applicants and their undersigned Attorney appreciate Examiner's attention and further consideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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